

July 16, 2010

9,000 Norwich Area Residents will Benefit from Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements

Funding Will Go Directly Towards Principal Forgiveness on \$4 Million Loan for Project

Arcuri Secured Unprecedented Amount of Federal Funding for States for Water Infrastructure Improvements through Recovery Act and Federal Appropriations

NORWICH, NY - Today, U.S. Rep Michael A. Arcuri (NY-24) joined Norwich Mayor Joseph Maiurano and other city officials at a press conference to announce a \$2 million grant through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) to complete the City of Norwich's water infrastructure project. This grant will go towards principal forgiveness on the \$4,015,000 loan financed through the New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation (NYSEFC) and coupled with the \$485,000 in funding secured by Arcuri in the Fiscal Year 2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act, the City of Norwich will only be responsible for less than half of the project's \$4.5 million cost .

"We have always known that Norwich residents could not shoulder the entire cost of these necessary repairs alone," **Arcuri said**. "I would like to thank Governor Paterson for working with me to see that significant grant funding could be awarded to this project. I was proud to support increased funding for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund in both the Recovery Bill and in this year's federal spending bills that has helped to make these grants possible. By improving our aging infrastructure we will be able to ensure all Upstate New York residents have access to a safe, clean water supply."

New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation President and CEO Matthew Driscoll said, "For 40 years, the Corporation has provided low-cost financing to communities across our State to construct vital water infrastructure projects. Undoubtedly, principal forgiveness will provide significant financial relief to communities in need of urgent and costly sewer infrastructure repairs. I would like to thank Governor Paterson and New York's Congressional Delegation for including this important funding and grant provision in the 2010 Federal Budget."

Arcuri fought to dramatically increase federal funding allocations for State Revolving Funds in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Bill) and Fiscal Year 2010 Interior and Environment Appropriations Act to ensure ample funding was available for these and other clean water infrastructure projects across the state. The Interior Appropriations Bill included \$2.1 billion, of which New York State received \$227 million, and the Recovery Bill included \$4 billion, of which the state received \$432.5 million. Additionally, much of this funding will be made available through the CWSRF as grants, instead of loans, directing more than \$328 million in grants to communities throughout New York State as principal forgiveness to offset construction and lending expenses. New York's CWSRF is administered by NYSEFC.

After securing dramatic increases in federal funding for State Revolving Funds-the main vehicle for funding local sewer upgrades-Arcuri urged the state to make this project a top priority to receive grants and loans in an effort to spare local taxpayers the entire burden of making these needed sewer upgrades.

The \$2,485,000 in grants from CWSRF and Arcuri and \$2,015,000 in loans through NYSEFC will cover the complete cost of planning, design, and construction of the City of Norwich Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements. The plant serves 9,000 people, including a large portion of the Town of Norwich's commercial area, and is also the main pump-out facility for the rural parts of the county using septic systems. Media modules in all of the wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) rotating biological contactors (RBCs) are deteriorating after over 20 years of service and require replacement for the units to continue to provide adequate secondary treatment. This project consists of the replacement of a total of eighteen (18) RBC internals and the installation of new chemical feed facilities for phosphorus removal. Construction is scheduled for completion on November 1, 2010.

###

